

age of 50 seems like an awfully early age in which to be doing that. So I have a lot of concerns. I don't know, I understand that Senator Fisher said something about this is funded at 115 percent of obligation and maybe, maybe that's the case, I don't know. I don't have those figures in front of us, none of us do, evidently. But...but nevertheless, you don't take this step without recognizing its consequences and I think there ought to be some discussion and concern expressed about the amendment. And until I get further information, I stand in opposition to the motion to return.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Horgan, you're light is next, followed by Senators Withem, Landis, Moore, Abboud, Witek, Hohenstein and Wesely. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I would simply rise in support of Senator Fisher's attempt to amend 724 with LB 639. We did hear this bill in the Retirement Committee. And, originally, as the bill was brought to us, Senator Fisher proposed allowing State Patrol officers to retire after 25 years of service which would have, in effect, allowed an officer at age 46 to retire. The committee, in its deliberations, determined that that was perhaps too liberal of an...of an interpretation or enactment of the retirement system and suggested and did amend the bill to require at least a minimum age of 50. If you look at other states, every other state in the country, including Nebraska, holds State Patrol officers to a different category of retirement, and just looking at a broad cross section of what the retirement benefits are for State Patrol officers across the nation, ten states permit retirement with 20 years of service at any age; 11 states permit retirement with 25 years of service at any age; 12 states permit retirement at age 50 with 20 or 25 years of service. So a vast majority of the states do provide enhanced retirement benefits for State Patrol officers, recognizing that their category of employment is different and separate from the type of employment other people have in state government. You know, these...these are people who have a different type of pressure in the jobs that they do. They have different types of requirements than the normal employee has. Obviously, we can debate whether or not we want to do this on Final Reading but it is...it is a bill that the committee considered. We did amend it to make it on line with...with a little stricter guideline of making it a 50-year